

KING OSCAR AS A GAMBLER.

How He Showed His Mettle by Breaking a Bank.

King Oscar of Sweden has not much of a reputation as a gambler, but a little experience of his at Aix la Chapelle not such a great many years ago showed that he would make a pretty nifty gambler. One night he entered the big gambling house of the city in the morning, and after watching the play at roulette a moment carelessly threw a silver coin on the table. Scarcely looking up, the croupier scornfully pushed the coin away, saying: "This cannot be for the bank; it must be intended for the servants."

White with rage, King Oscar cried out: "En ban!" signifying that he wished to venture an amount of money equal to the total assets of the bank at a single stroke. Astonished, the banker tremblingly asked the name of the man who proposed to risk a fortune on the roll of a marble. "Je suis le Roi de Suède"—I am the King of Sweden—calmly announced the stranger, and not heeding the apologies and excuse of the banker, demanded that the play go on.

As luck would have it, the red color on which he had bet won, and the croupier with trembling fingers gathered up all the money in the bank, placed it in a little basket and pushed it toward the King. With a single haughty gesture Oscar flung the basket from him, scattering its contents all over the room, shouting: "It is for the servants," and hurried from the room.—*Milwaukee Wisconsin.*

CHRONIC ILL-LUCK OF A KING.

Belgium's Ruler Stands Without a Rival as a Jonah.

The King of the Belgians said to a friend of mine who asked him to stand god-father to an infant son: "I should be delighted did I not feel in a vein of ill-luck, and unlucky people should be avoided." He said to another person: "The world has no idea what an evil influence tracks me."

His sister, Charlotte, is a lunatic; he lost his son; he adopted his nephew, and he also died, says a writer in *London Truth*. The Princess Clementine, his daughter, has never got over the horror of seeing her governess perish in the fire at Laeken Palace, which destroyed the building and endless family relics, papers and treasures of all kinds.

The tragedy of Meyerling was, perhaps, the greatest blow of all. One son-in-law perished in it, and the other came out of it a black sheep at the court of Austria. The Congo State is not what the King hoped it was going to turn out, and has impoverished him. The burning of his papers in the Laeken fire has thrown his affairs into disorder.

It would now seem as though his crown were to go down in the hurly-burly of socialist revolution, and Belgium to be again the cockpit of France and Germany.

A STRANGE DISCOVERY.

A miner, while at work the other day, discovered a large and well-formed frog in a mass of anthracite coal blasted from a chamber 300 feet below the surface in the Mount Lookout Colliery, Wyo., near Pittsburg. W. S. Joseph Johns was timbering with another miner, James Otis, in a tunnel in the mine, and had barred down a large lump of coal when the gleam of light from his lamp fell upon something in the coal. He stooped down and touched the object, and was surprised to find it soft and yielding. There was about a square inch of surface exposed at the time, and he saw that the thing, whatever it was, was in a cavity. With his pick, he very carefully chipped off the coal all around it until the cavity, or chamber, was fully opened, and there, nestling in the hard coal, he found a frog.

Some seventeen years ago, while working in the mines, he made a similar discovery, and had then taken the frog in his hand, shown it to his brother miners, and taken it home. But, while it was alive and warm when he found it, it died before it had been exposed to the air half an hour. At that time a scientist told him that if he had enclosed the frog in an air-tight compartment immediately after unearthing it the animal might have lived.

When he made his second discovery on Wednesday this fact at once recurred to his mind, and, as soon as he had recovered from his surprise and realized what he had found, he ran to his dinner pail and got an air-tight fruit jar, in which he brought the tea for his lunch. Into this he put the frog and closed the lid, and the jar has not since been opened.

The frog at first showed no signs of life, although it was warm, but after being in the jar six hours it began to move, and when it had been exposed to the light ten minutes it was quite as lively as any specimen which can be found around the ponds in summer. Since then it has continued to be fully wide awake and stares in wonder at all who look at it.

In appearance it is not very different from an everyday frog, except that its back is nearly black and there are two rows of little hilly protuberances down each side of the spine. Its legs are also peculiarly long, and its feet very delicate and tender.

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General Advertisements.

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Leather.—We have received within the past sixty days, by steamer and sail, 66 Rolls of Leather, containing 9088 lbs., and 5347 ft.; also, 3 bales containing 142 doz. sheep skins, so it looks as if we meant to keep our Stock of Leather up, although by getting it in large lots, we are able to keep the prices down.

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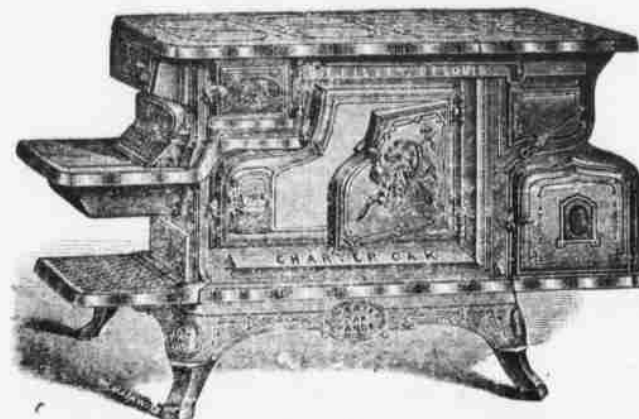
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